



Gambling for the masses

Millions pass the time with online counterparts.
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SPOKE

A LEARNING NEWSROOM FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Lacrosse longevity

Conestoga grad a 10-year veteran with Toronto Rock.
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MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009

CONESTOGA COLLEGE, KITCHENER, ONT.

WWW.CONESTOGAC.ON.CA/SPOKE

41ST YEAR - NO. 8

Conestoga students take the plunge



PHOTO BY PATRICK LANSBERGEN

Taylor Brian Gabel flies through the air just prior to a big splash at the Polar Plunge, Feb. 12. For more photo fun, see Page 7.

By ADAM RUSSELL

Warm temperatures and melting ice couldn't stop Conestoga students from making a big splash in support of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at the college's annual Polar Plunge.

The event, held Feb. 12 at the school, had to be moved to an inflatable pool because of unsafe ice conditions on the pond.

Although there had to be a change of venue, CSI general manager Christopher Graves believed the event would still be a success.

"The weather is the weather; you can't do much about that. The good news is we have a great number of volunteers this year," he said. "It looks like we're going to do very well in terms of being able to make a great donation (to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation)."

Cystic fibrosis is a hereditary disease affecting the mucus glands of the lungs, liver, pancreas and intestines, causing progressive disability due to multi-system failure. There is no current cure for the disease, and many individuals with cystic fibrosis die young: many in their 20s and 30s from lung failure.

In total, 59 students took part in the plunge raising more than \$4,700 in pledges

for research into the disease.

Costumes ranged from a student dressed in only a jock strap and cowboy hat to a "groom and bride-to-be" wearing a suit and a bridal gown.

Darcy Vermaak, a third-year graphic design student clad in a pink flamingo costume, was inspired to take the dive after seeing her teachers do it before she came to Conestoga.

"When I was in elementary school, we raised \$5,000 for the Terry Fox Run. Our teachers did five things for each thousand dollars we raised," she said. "They did a polar plunge (as one of the events) and ever since I watched them go into the lake by my school I have always wanted to do it."

Vermaak took home the best costume award for her flamingo outfit, earning herself a \$50 Best Buy gift card.

Zac Thomas, a third-year accounting student, managed to raise the most money in pledges, contributing more than \$400 to the cause. For doing so, he was awarded a \$100 prepaid MasterCard. Thomas mentioned that his strategy for collecting money was to ask as many professors as he could.

Finally, the winner of best form went to Freeman Carter. Carter picked up a \$25 iTunes gift card for his plunge into the pool.

Director of alumni relations, Sarah Carmichael, host of the event, was thrilled with the outcome.

"We had 59 people raising money and (then) plunging and we had a huge turnout," she said. "Obviously, it would have been better if we could have actually plunged into the pond, it's a little bit more effective, but we made do with what we had and I think it was really successful."

Students who attended the event were also treated to an impassioned speech from Doon Public School science teacher Jeff Langridge. Langridge spoke about his eight-year-old son Christopher, who was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at two months of age, and his battle with the disease.

He said although it was a hard choice for him to leave his students for the day and attend the Polar Plunge, he felt it was important to come and show how thankful he was for Conestoga College's support.

"These people are my heroes. I am so impressed that they have raised this money to help people that they've never even met," he said. "That to me is way more heroic than taking a basketball down the court and dunking it into the net. These people are real."

Condors crowned hockey tournament champs

By BLAIR POLLOCK

Familiar ice gave Conestoga its first ever Conestoga College Women's Extramural Hockey tournament title after seven years of coming up short.

The tournament took place on Feb. 13 as Conestoga took to the ice against Fanshawe bright and early at 8 a.m. for the opening game at the Conestoga recreation centre.

After a scoreless opening period Conestoga erupted for three goals in the second, and took a 3-1 lead into the third and final period. Conestoga held off Fanshawe and escaped the game with a 3-1 win.

Scoring for the Condors was Carmen Carnochan, Laura Bennett and Christina Lawrence. Assists went to Chelsea McKellar (2), Jenny

Griffith, Allison Quennell and Laura Kovaks.

"We won the races to the puck and had great shots from the point," said Conestoga coach Brandon Coyle. "We played good defensively which led to strong offence. Our offensive strength really shined in the second."

After a short, hour-long rest, Conestoga was back on the ice against St. Lawrence. Conestoga had their chances but in the end just couldn't solve the St. Lawrence goaltender, losing 2-0.

The win and the loss left Conestoga in the semifinals, facing off against Lambton College.

Lambton's bench was a little understaffed, leading to five Conestoga players being loaned to Lambton to fill out the lineup. Conestoga picked the right five players to send to the visitor's bench, as the

Condors spanked Lambton to the tune of 5-0.

Conestoga goals went to Carnochan, Natalie Renkema (2), Cynthia Matheson and Angela Tiede. Helpers were awarded to Tiede (2), Renkema, Becky Voisin, Griffith, Matheson, Mary Lou Van Meeteren, Carnochan and Morgan Craig.

The semifinal win led to a rematch against St. Lawrence.

Conestoga took a quick one-goal lead in the first period and made it 2-0 at the end of the second, after a Griffith goal from Carnochan.

St. Lawrence made it a one-goal game scoring just seconds into the third period, but Carnochan drove the dagger into St. Lawrence, scoring with 10 seconds left, from Craig and Quennell, to seal a 3-1 win and the tournament championship.



PHOTO BY BLAIR POLLOCK

Cynthia Matheson carries the puck in on a 2 on 1 in the finals of the six-team Conestoga College Women's Extramural Hockey tournament, Feb. 13. Conestoga took home the hardware, beating St. Lawrence in the final 3-1.

Now deep thoughts ... with Conestoga College

Random questions answered by random students

What is the worst pick-up line
you have ever heard?



"I hate when someone just walks by and says 'you're hot!'"

Megan Ferguson,
third-year
accounting co-op

"Did it hurt when you fell from heaven?"

Arthur Kucharski,
first-year
materials and operations
management



"Are you tired? Because you've been running through my mind all day."

Jennifer Bowman,
third-year
accounting

"Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?"

Aleena Aftab,
second-year
health informatics
management



"Someone said, 'I like your glasses.' So dumb."

Sarah Riley,
first-year
practical nursing

"Roses are red, violets are blue, how 'bout you take me on a date with you?"

Flaviu Vasiu,
first year
electrical engineering technology



Smile Conestoga, you could be our next respondent!

R-e-s-p-e-c-t, tell me what it means to you

By **CHRISTIE LAGROTTA**

These boots are made for walkin', and that's just what they'll do during Conestoga College's Respect Campaign which invites you to be the difference, and "walk a mile in the shoes" of students and staff featured on this year's Respect Campaign posters. The Respect Campaign committee will be hosting the first Respect Day in the Student Life Centre on March 2.

"We have over 30 committee members," said Ryan Connell, student life programmer. "They genuinely want to be a part of the campaign and make a difference."

Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. the committee will host several interactive games to help students understand the challenges their fellow students face.

"The point of the games is to get people to think in a different way," said Connell.

One of the games is a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning student's (GLBTQ) conversation game. You would be given a script to follow, and your facil-

itator would ask a question. Using your script you would have to respond to questions about your "partner" without using female or male pronouns. This activity demonstrates the challenges that members who identify as

"

They genuinely want to be a part of the campaign and make a difference.

— Ryan Connell

"

GLBTQ face during a conversation. Often they don't feel comfortable disclosing their partners' gender during discussions and therefore keep their conversations neutral.

"It's hard for those who aren't used to it to use words like 'they' or 'their,' rather than 'he' or 'she,'" Connell said. "But it's something that some people do everyday."

In addition to the activities, Connell will be providing an

introduction to the Respect Campaign and what it is to be the difference.

Conestoga Students Inc. is proud to introduce Cory Johnson as an integral part of Respect Day. Johnson is a motivational speaker who uses humour and life experiences to inspire and educate his listeners. He was born with cerebral palsy and also suffered a stroke at 11 years old. Johnson speaks about living life to the fullest and overcoming the barriers that some people impose on him. With his positive attitude and witty sense of humour, Johnson shows people that a disability is really just about perception. He has travelled around the U.S and Canada promoting one key message, that everyone has a disability of sorts. He believes that there are four types of disabilities. They are the ones some people are born with, the ones we will all inherit sometime throughout our lives, the ones we impose on ourselves and the ones we impose on each other.

Following the event at 3 p.m. there will be an open viewing of the Respect video.

Walk a mile in their shoes

BY **HEATHER MUIR**

Take a minute to walk in someone else's shoes and realize just who and what they do.

Today is Respect Day at Conestoga College and understanding others is what it's all about.

Booths will be set up in the Student Life Centre between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cory Johnson, a motivational speaker, will be giving a lecture at 12 p.m. in the

Sanctuary.

Conestoga's security guards will be participating with a booth of their own.

"We will have a booth set up and profiles of our guards, so that people can see that behind the uniforms we're people too with hobbies and interests," said Barb Eichholz, a Conestoga security guard.

The booth also includes profiles of the director, investigator and the health and safety staff.

They welcome all students and staff to drop by their booth and get to know them, not just as guards but as people outside the uniform.

"There are definitely times when we have been called names when we give out tickets," said Eichholz.

They hope the next time you meet up with a security officer that you will remember they are just doing their job and that you will be respectful.

Campus Fair Job & Volunteer Positions

Student Life
Engage. Inspire. Motivate.

Wed, March 4th, 11am-1pm
Student Life Centre Atrium
&

Thurs, March 5th, 11am-1pm
2E-Wing

Pick up an application

Leave your name for
future positions

Drop off your resume

summer and fall on-campus positions only

Students training to be 'real world' CSI

By SARAH BONGERS

If you're wondering why yellow police tape is cropping up around Doon campus, rest assured it's only the law and security administration students learning their trade.

Despite the cold, rain and wind, the students went out on Feb. 12 to process a staged crime scene, knowing crime doesn't wait for a sunny day.

Behind the yellow tape lay pieces of evidence waiting to be processed and catalogued, some which were a lone blue sneaker, a couple of plastic containers and an ID tag on a lanyard.

Second-year LASA student, Sean Barrow, explained that each student had his or her own job to do at the crime scene.

Barrow and Brandon Connelly set up the crime scene, putting up yellow crime tape around the area. Samantha Chominiec took pictures, while Barrow sketched the scene. Finally Chominiec collected the evidence and Connelly helped catalogue it.

Co-ordinator of LASA, James Phillips, said the students who worked on the crime scene were very professional and paid attention to every little detail.

Barrow said the sketches he did of the crime scene are not for accuracy but to have a hard copy of the scene as they found it. The sketches and photos are for going back to for reference if they need them. From them they'll know exactly where the crime was, what it was like and where the evidence was.

When most of us think of

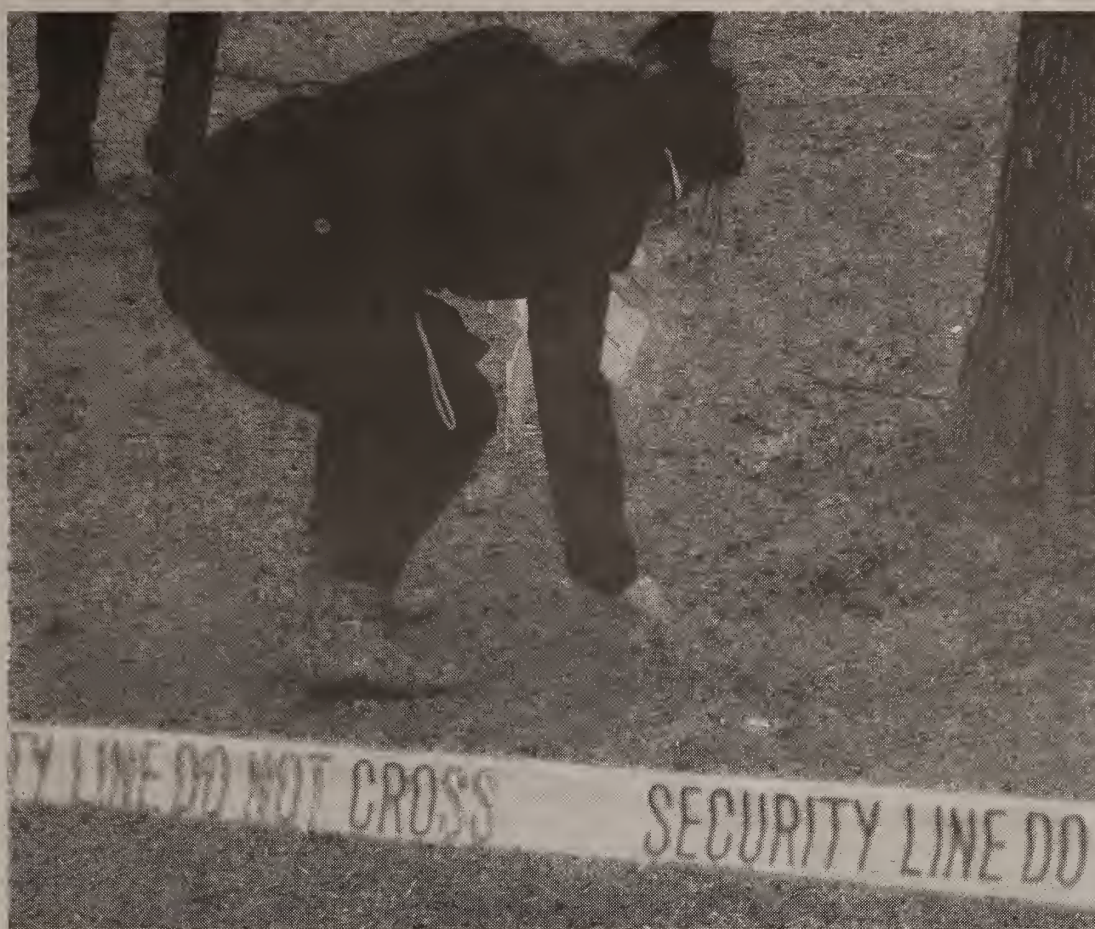


PHOTO BY SARAH BONGERS

Second-year law and security administration student, Samantha Chominiec, collects evidence from the crime scene in a plastic bag so it can be later catalogued. These staged crime scenes give LASA students hands-on experience.

real crime investigating we think of what we see on TV.

"What we've been doing is more real world," said Connelly.

Barrow said the actual process of crime scene investigation "takes a lot longer to do" than the quick work we see on TV.

The second-year LASA students have done two outdoor

investigations, according to Barrow, but because of early snow last semester, they didn't get to do as many as they would have liked.

One staged crime scene investigation the students got to participate in was a robbery in the bookstore. Chominiec said that was a lot of fun.

She said she has learned a lot from these outdoor investi-

gations and that it helps her gain hands-on experience in the field. She said she is glad she actually gets to do the work.

Later on in the semester, Phillips said the LASA students will be getting more hands-on experience such as surveillance techniques, which involve following people.

A ray of sunshine

By PATRICK LANSBERGEN

The Beat the Blues event held by counselling services at Doon campus on Feb. 11 met with success despite technical difficulties and undesirable weather.

Lynn Robbins, a counsellor, said the purpose of the event was to give Conestoga students an emotional lift during the winter months and to provide information on seasonal affective disorder.

Over a hundred students entered into a draw for various prizes including mugs, reading lamps, balls and other items. The event was to feature a light box, which produces more natural lighting for those with seasonal affective disorder. According to Robbins, students would sit under the light for a while and some of the effects of the disorder would be lessened. Due to technical difficulties the light box was not a part of the event. However, Hula Hoops, music, tea and fruit were available at the event. Pamphlets and contact information regarding counselling services and information regarding depression, particularly seasonal affective disorder, were also available.

According to Robbins, seasonal affective disorder is a depression that coincides with the shorter winter days, January and February being peak times during winter where many feel its effects the most.

"There is an awareness that it exists but few people really know anything about it, that's part of what we are trying to change today," said Pauline Loucks, an intern at counselling services.

Some of the symptoms of the disorder include weight gain, oversleeping, decreased energy and difficulty concentrating. These symptoms generally disappear when spring arrives.

International Women's Day events being held at Conestoga and worldwide

By LAURA ROUSE

March 8 is International Women's Day, which is celebrated annually across the world. It was first celebrated in 1911 and is now an official holiday in more than 15 countries. Events are held as a way of bringing women all over the world together to focus on issues of inequality of women.

A week after the first event in 1911, a tragic fire in New York City killed 140 female immigrants in a factory. This incident reinforced the need for better working conditions for women.

"Although much has been achieved by women since that time, there is still a need to both celebrate those accomplishments but also keep awareness that there are still issues of abuse and inequality even today," said Barb Kraler,

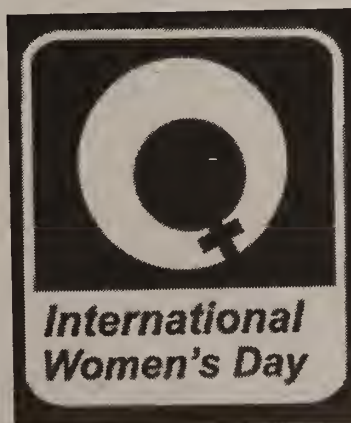
a Conestoga counsellor.

Annually on March 8, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements.

Diverse local activity connects women from all around the world ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and more.

At Conestoga, the Women's Resource Group is linking two events around International Women's Day.

First, on Feb. 26 students had an opportunity to participate in the Clothesline Project in the Atrium, where they created T-shirts depicting Healthy Relationships as a counter to violence in relationships. There were also tables



set up for local community providers to assist those who are not in healthy relationships and give information about prevention projects in the community.

The second event is the Celebrating Women at Conestoga annual gourmet dinner, on Tuesday, March 3. It will be held at the Waterloo campus dining

room and will begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and entertainment by singer/songwriter Jennifer Claveau at 7:15 p.m.

"The event is intended to celebrate women at Conestoga in honour of International Women's Day," said Kim Radigan, health and safety officer here at Conestoga.

Tickets for the dinner are \$30 per person and you can buy them from Mary Wright in Alumni Services, Kim Radigan in 2B15 (Doon) or Debbie Steeves at the Waterloo campus.

"(The dinner) will give women from Conestoga the chance to connect with each other and be reminded that we still have work to do, through a donation to Mary's Place, a shelter for women in the community," said Kraler.

Guys and gals on sold off

Students at residence got a chance to strut down the catwalk Feb. 10 at the fifth annual bachelor/bachelorette auction.

This year, there were 14 "items" to bid on.

Some people were auctioned off in groups of two, and all dressed up for the event. More than 40 people were in attendance to either make a bid or just watch the show where the highest bid of the night was \$105.

All proceeds from the auction went to residence life.

Olympic-sized trouble

By JESSICA O'DONNELL

Vancouver, B.C. has begun construction on venues for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Native groups across Canada, in turn, have begun their protests of the games.

These groups are protesting the use of native land, claiming it is land that was taken from them when European settlers came to the New World. They are also protesting the social and environmental damage they say will be caused by the Olympics.

Throughout Canada's history, land disputes have flared up. In southern Ontario, Caledonia has been at the forefront of the news, since a construction site there was occupied by natives in 2006, forcing contractors to put their projects on hold.

More recently, 25 student and native demonstrators blocked a CP rail line in Woodbridge on Oct. 13, 2008 to protest the Vancouver Olympics. One train was briefly delayed. Their main arguments are that the land belongs to the native peoples of Canada and thus, use of any land must be approved by them.

The indigenous anti-Olympics website, No2010.com, argues that the land being used for the Olympic Games is truly stolen land because no treaties were ever created nor signed by native leaders and European settlers. Other land in Canada, however, has been subject to various treaties throughout the years.

The site also says families, mostly native, are being uprooted from their homes in order to build dorms, resorts and athletic centres for the games and that millions of trees have or will soon be cut down for further construction.

However, not all native people oppose the Games. Some aboriginal leaders, such as National Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine, support the event, but have warned that there will be protests. Native people will use the event to bring attention to the need for better schools, safe drinking water on reserves, the extreme poverty and the unresolved land claims.

The Vancouver Olympic Committee itself says that their goal is to have "unprecedented aboriginal participation in the planning and hosting of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games."

They are trying to achieve this, in part, by allying with the Four Host First Nations, a group of local chiefs. But native people say that organization does not represent the indigenous people in the region.

It is obvious that the Olympic committee is trying to work with everyone in an effort to make this the best Winter Games ever. However, when people want to use it as a vehicle of protest, it is impossible to stop them.

What members of the committee must continue to do, is listen to the concerns and try to alleviate as many as possible. The land claim issue is not one that will be resolved, but they can ensure that they are not destroying nature nor causing homelessness.

The views herein represent the position of the newspaper, not necessarily the author.

Letters are welcome

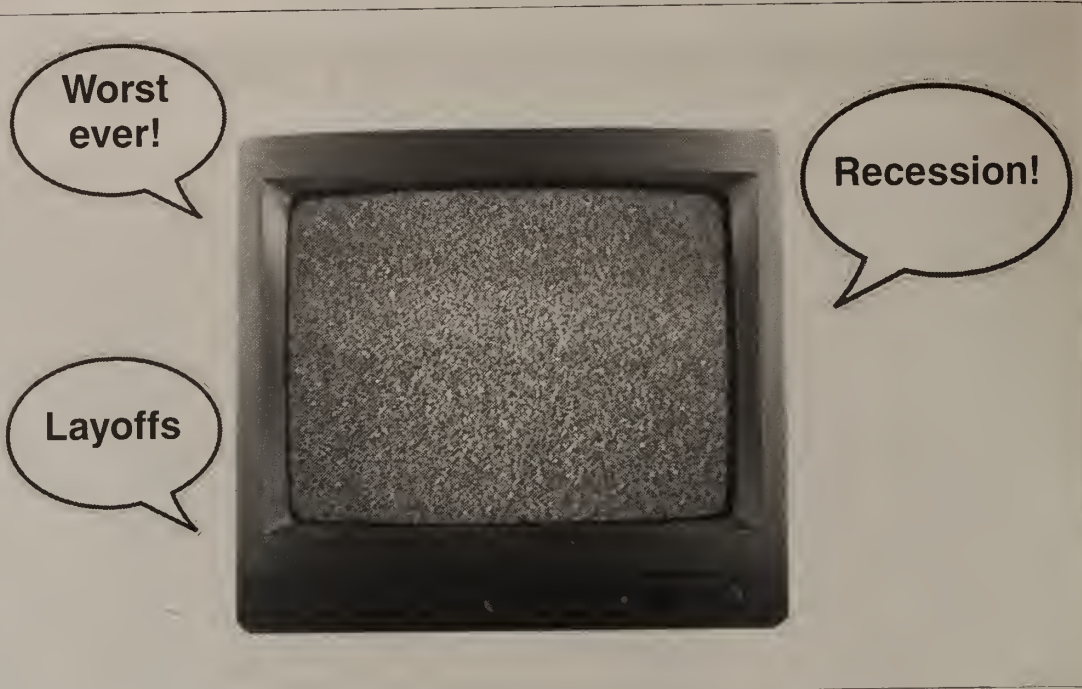
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No unsigned letters will be published.

Letters should be no longer than 500 words.

Spoke reserves the right to edit any letter for publication.

Address correspondence to:
The Editor, Spoke, 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 1C29, Kitchener, Ont., N2G 4M4



Is the media's constant barrage of bad news making things worse?

Enough is enough

There's too much talk about the recession on the news

Investments, the Toronto Stock Exchange, mortgages, housing in the United States and money are all in the news. At least they are in every story about that nine-letter word that's drilled into our heads and won't go away.



Kaitlyn Heard
Opinion

The excessive coverage is creating fear and that's making it worse. People are afraid to spend money because all we hear is that there's no money to be spent.

A few months ago, to be perfectly honest, I didn't even know what the word recession meant. Now, I'm pretty sure a four-year-old knows what it means.

Since last year, all we've been hearing is recession this and recession that. No money here and too much money there.

I know it's vital for us to know about our economy but enough is enough. When all you see is headlines about the recession on page after page, it gets a little repetitious.

My father is in the financial industry, and he also thinks there is too much coverage of this subject. Even though it's

part of his job to keep himself up-to-date on financial situations, it's all the same mumbo-jumbo day after day.

While watching The View one morning, Whoopi Goldberg said something that made a lot of sense. She said if we dwell on our suffering economy then it won't get better. If we focus on the fact that we're at an all-time low, we'll stay at an all-time low.

Both broadcast and print coverage seem to dwell on our economy's downward spiral. Has it gotten better at all? If so, we certainly don't hear about it.

The excessive coverage is creating fear and that's making it worse. People are afraid to spend money because all we hear is that there's no money to be spent. But, by not spending, we're causing more damage.

Aren't people getting sick of hearing about it? And is everyone using the recession as an excuse when some of it is natural businesses fluctuations or errors in judgment.

According to The Sault

Star, Glen Hodgson, chief economist at the Conference Board of Canada, an Ottawa-based economic research group, feels the same way.

"If they (the media) keep saying the sky is falling, well, people think the sky is falling. It's why media exists; we all want to know what is happening out there. The question is whether the bad news is getting amplified?" said Hodgson.

It comes down to psychology. Maybe if people stopped talking about it, it could get better. If we focused optimistically toward the recession, the economy could return to a more positive state.

It comes down to psychology. Maybe if people stopped talking about it, it could get better. If we focused optimistically toward the recession, the economy could return to a more positive state. We, as a nation, need to concentrate on a more positive economy in order to turn it around.

Sooner, rather than later.

SPOKE

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Editor: Kevin O'Brien

Advertising Managers: Liz Koenig and Sarah Boychuk

Spoke Online Editor: Laura Rouse and Louise Kaddour

Production Managers: Mandi Cartwright, Jamie Reansbury, Heather Muir, Blair Pollock and Kaitlyn Heard

Circulation Manager: Adam Russell

Photo Editors: Sarah Bongers, Lacie Groffen,

Christie Lagrotta, Jessica O'Donnell, David Smith, Stacie Ritchie, Patrick Lansbergen and Neil McDonald
Faculty Supervisor and Adviser:
Christina Jonas
Spoke's address is 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 1C29,

Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4.
Phone: 519-748-5220, ext. 3691, 3692, 3693, 3694
Fax: 519-748-3534
E-mail: spoke@conestogac.on.ca
Website: www.conestogac.on.ca/spoke

Hollywood's latest scandal

Mother of six adds eight to her brood

On Jan. 26, single mother Nadya Suleman gave birth to six boys and two girls in suburban Los Angeles – the babies are now the world's longest-living set of octuplets.

Suleman spoke about the births, and her situation itself, on the Today show on Feb. 6, and said that all she wanted was children. Yet she already had six kids prior to the octuplets, between the ages of two and seven. Now, Suleman has 14 children. As a divorced mother, how does she plan to take care of all of these kids? She said she wants to go back to school so she can give her children everything they need, but who is going to raise the kids while she goes to school?

The 33-year-old woman used in vitro fertilization – which involves combining the egg and sperm in a lab dish and then transferring the embryo into the womb – to conceive each and every one of her children. The father, or donor, is a “friend” and is the same for all her children. Suleman said the father is “overwhelmed” by the news of the octuplets’ births, but she hopes that he gets it together and is involved in their lives in the future. She admitted that she only speaks to the father of her children once or twice a year, and he



Laura
Rouse
Opinion

has never seen any of them.

Though the smallest of the eight babies born Jan. 26 weighed just over one pound at birth, Suleman said she has been holding each of them every day. She also stated in the Today interview that she is not willing to accept welfare.

But she – and her six older children – live with her mother, Angela, in her three bedroom home, and in a few short weeks, the octuplets will be moving in as well. Angela said she has no idea where eight more cribs will go.

“She has no way to support them. It’s very difficult to cope with all this,” she said.

When Suleman was asked about whether or not she had considered reducing the number of fetuses early on in the pregnancy, she said, “Oh no. Sometimes we have that dream and that passion and we take risks, and I did, and it turned out perfectly.”

Perfectly? This woman is

young and has no support system. She definitely knew the risks when she did in vitro fertilization again. She knew there was a good chance of getting multiples with this procedure, as she already had a set of twins. And to top it off, she requested to be implanted with six fertilized embryos, even though the American Society for Reproductive Medicine’s guidelines indicates that only one should be implanted, per patient.

This woman is extremely selfish, as she admitted that she “longed for certain connections and attachments with another person,” which she lacked growing up. She has not taken into account the effect her decisions will have on her older kids.

It is obvious that we can’t trust people to make the right decisions all the time, but we should be able to trust the medical community to not allow things like this to happen.

Hopefully the investigation that is currently underway regarding this ethical issue will shed light on how this was allowed to happen and prevent situations like this in the future, for the sake of the children, if nothing else.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE AUCHINLECK

It is hard to believe that people can’t walk a few extra feet to a trash can to deposit their garbage, especially in these environmentally sensitive times.

Untimely outrage

I have an uncontrollable urge to berate some of my fellow students.

Actually, I suppose it’s not uncontrollable. I have controlled it thus far, but it’s an urge nonetheless.

The urge usually comes about 20 minutes into a class. The instructor will be talking when the door slowly opens, revealing a sneaky latecomer or two.

In their hand is a bag from Tim Hortons. They could have made it to class on time, but the urge for a doughy treat was too much to bear.

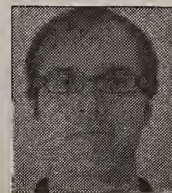
I can’t tell you why this boils my blood so much, but it does. A petty annoyance to some is my biggest pet peeve.

I just can’t stand students who are compulsively late, the ones who can never seem to make it to class on time. Why can’t they just get to class on time? Why?!

Many claim it’s because of traffic. Well, here’s a tip for them: leave earlier. Their bus constantly arrives late? Take an earlier bus. Line at Tim Hortons too long? Get there earlier or don’t get a coffee.

I have a theory: If someone is late to every class, they’re doing it on purpose. If they weren’t, they’d accidentally be on time every so often. You see, they like the attention. They like to be looked at.

Now, I admit, I’m compulsively early. If a friend tells me to meet them at 8:00, I invariably show up at 7:45. If I’m scheduled for a 5:00 shift



Kevin
O'Brien
Opinion

at work, you’d better believe that I’ll be there at 4:45. Or 4:30. I think it’s because both of my parents were teachers.

But, one of these days, I’m worried that I’ll lose control. I’ll snap.

I’ll stand up as soon as a compulsively late student walks in.

“Wait! Wait!” I’ll yell.

“Everybody, hold on. Let’s wait for (compulsively late student) to have a seat!”

Then I’d address the student.

“Are you comfortable?? How’s your bagel? It must be good if it was worth disturbing the ENTIRE CLASS to get! It must be the best bagel in the world if it was worth breaking my concentration! So, enjoy it! Enjoy the bagel that made me lose my mind! You think you’re better than me? ARRRGH!”

I’d sit down, red-faced and seething. Everyone would applaud. I’d be a hero to the students who made it to class on time.

In real life, I’d probably be kicked out of the class for being insane and I’d be forced to take anger management classes.

Which, of course, I’d arrive to early.

Graduation will be bittersweet

It’s all ending.

Reading week has come and gone, our academic workloads are picking up and the semester is quickly winding down.

For me, as with many current students, it is bittersweet. Having spent the past six years in post-secondary studies, I am anticipating my final day of classes with a particular kind of dread. I have given the better part of the last decade to cramming for finals and spending sleepless weekends with my laptop instead of my friends. Now, with the end in sight, I find that I am prematurely nostalgic for the rigours of my declining academic life.

There was a time when it seemed I would be a professional student. I would tease my parents, who helped to financially and emotionally bankroll my education, with threats of law school and coyly mention that I had been considering a masters degree. With just two months left I have promised them that this is it.

Like probably everyone else in this position, I am equal parts excited and terrified. I worry about leaving the comforts of my messy student house to bunk with my family again. I obsess over having



Sarah
Boychuk
Opinion

to find a grown-up job, having come to honestly enjoy my part-time work as a salesgirl. I worry about trying to hold my own among those with established careers when I have yet to overcome my childish clumsiness.

“
Reading week has come and gone, our academic workloads are picking up and the semester is quickly winding down.
”

Mostly, though, I am sad that I will no longer have the luxuries that come with being a student. I will miss spending entire days thinking and planning and procrastinating and (re)writing. More than anything, I will miss being part of a community that prizes learning

above everything else.

I came to Conestoga a few months after finishing university. While I am so grateful for those four years, I am perhaps even more so for what I have learned over the past two. I attended university out of a misguided sense of obligation; coming to Conestoga was a choice I made entirely on my own, having been attracted by the school’s reputation and my desire for more hands-on learning. I certainly have not been disappointed. With each new term and the calibre of faculty I’ve had the privilege of learning from, my expectations have been happily exceeded. Maybe I would be more anxious to leave if I didn’t feel so at home at Conestoga, but with the days dwindling I worry about walking through the doors one final time.

In the meantime, I suppose that the only way to prepare is in committing myself to enjoying every early morning class and every seemingly impossible deadline. I hope that everyone else who has had the opportunity to study here – regardless of where they are in their academic careers – do the same.

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ELECTION NOTICE AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ONE PERSON IS TO BE ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE
CONESTOGA COLLEGE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCED LEARNING
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
AS FOLLOWS:

STUDENT MEMBER

Eligibility: Open to all full-time and part-time students enrolled in a program of instruction
(a group of related courses leading to a degree, diploma, certificate or other document awarded by the Board of Governors)

Term of Office: September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010
(candidate must plan to be enrolled as a student during the term of office)

The terms of reference for this elected internal member are the same as those for externally appointed members of the Board
Nomination forms will be posted on **March 3, 2009**
(forms will also be available in Kevin Mullan's office, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, ESB)

Closing date for nominations is **March 17, 2009**

Lists of nominees to be posted on **March 24, 2009**

ELECTION DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009



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It was a cold and crazy day



Conestoga students raised money for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation during CSI's annual Polar Plunge. Sporting unique outfits and diving into the frigid waters of an inflatable pool, approximately 50 students participated in the plunge. Just over \$4,700 was raised for the foundation.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK LANSBERGEN



PHOTO BY ADAM RUSSELL

Grad on a roll with the Rock

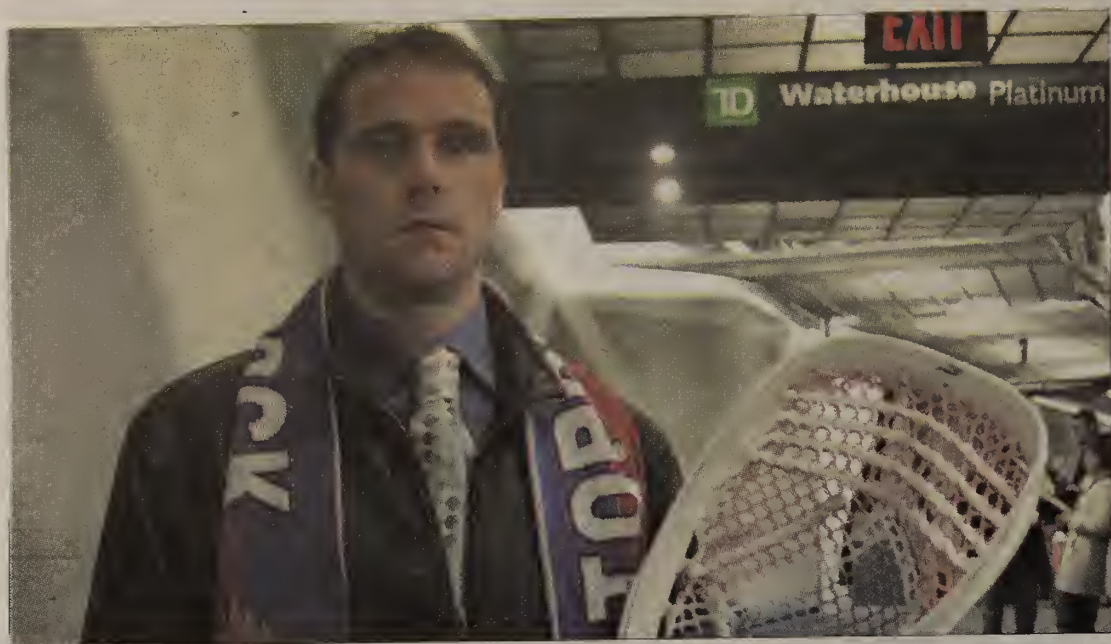


PHOTO BY NEIL McDONALD

Toronto Rock goaltender and Conestoga grad Bob Watson, 38, isn't ready to exit the game just yet.

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DATE: MARCH 4, 2009

TIME: 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

LOCATION: E-WING CORRIDOR

By NEIL McDONALD

Bob Watson's lacrosse-playing days first came to an end in 1991.

That's the year he graduated from the law and security program at Conestoga College.

He was passionate about lacrosse — he'd been playing since he was four years old, when his father introduced him to the sport. But, after college, it was time for the younger Watson to choose a career. He envisioned himself patrolling the streets as a police officer, so he hung up his goalie pads and his stick and got a job in private investigation.

Watson's early retirement from the sport ended abruptly, though, when the Baltimore Thunder of the recently-formed National Lacrosse League came calling and offered him a contract. Jumping at the chance to turn professional, Watson quit his job, packed his bags and moved south. By 1998, the Guelph native was back in Canada, playing for the Hamilton-based Ontario Raiders. The following year, the Raiders moved a few kilometres up the QEW and became the Toronto Rock. The Rock, and the league, have come a long way since.

"It's changed quite a bit," says Watson. "It was a short schedule, only eight games when I first started playing, pay was very minimal and the interest was minimal. They managed to secure a TV deal a few years back and things seemed to take off. Obviously it's gone over very well in Toronto, we've had a lot of success here."

And so has Watson. In addition to the five NLL championships he's won as a member of the Rock, Watson took home his second Goaltender of the Year award last season at the age of 38, and was the championship game MVP in 2003.

Lately, though, things haven't been so great for the Rock. Last season, despite Watson's award-winning efforts, the team missed the playoffs for the first time since moving to Toronto. And, three games into the current season, the entire coaching staff was fired.

Standing in front of his locker at the Air Canada Centre Feb. 20 after a tough overtime loss to the Buffalo Bandits, Watson fields questions from reporters about the game winning goal that got by him, and the team's losing record.

It must seem a long way from May 14, 2005, the night Watson helped the Rock win

their fifth NLL championship in front of a capacity hometown crowd.

"That's what you play for," he says. "That's what every kid dreams about, and we got the chance to do that back in 2005 with a full house — I think it was 19,500 — and that's always a fond memory."

Though lacrosse is more popular now than it was when Watson first began, the pros don't make the same kind of money as their hockey- or basketball-playing counterparts. When not playing with the Rock, Watson holds down a day job at Fastforms, a printing company in Guelph. He says lack of a current television deal is hurting the league but remains hopeful for the future of the sport he loves.

"The game is stronger right now," he says. "Unfortunately, we're struggling with the TV end of things. Hopefully, we can get this game back on TV, get it back out in the public eye and keep it growing. I know it's really grown at the grass-roots level and minor lacrosse enrolment is up in great numbers, at least it was in the last few years. It was a dying sport when I grew up playing it. Everybody who plays this game has a real passion for it, and they obviously want to see this game thrive."

Watson has achieved all there is to achieve in the professional game, but says he wouldn't mind adding a sixth championship to his resume before time catches up with him.

"I've had a good career, but obviously every time you put the uniform on, you want to win. Everybody wants to win. Five's great, but six would be nice," he says with a laugh. "There's no such thing as being too greedy when it comes to winning."

As for retirement, Watson says he'll keep playing as long as he can.

"I just take it one game at a time right now. I set goals to play till I was 40, but I always said once I stop achieving at a high level that I'd get out of the game."

Whenever that happens, Watson doesn't think he'll be walking away from lacrosse completely. Not this time. Just as his father passed along his love of the game to the kid he called 'Whipper' (a nickname that's stuck to this day), Watson is already passing it down to the next generation.

"I want to stay involved in the game. I'm coaching my son's team at the minor level," he says. "I love the sport."



Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss!

By LIZ KOENIG

Send the Birthday Honk-honker to the top of Mount Zorn, let loose a big blast on the Big Birthday Horn, today was the day that Doc Seuss was born!

One of the world's most renowned children's book writers, Theodor Seuss Geisel, was born in Springfield, Mass. in 1904.

If you want to bake a cake in his honour, make sure you only use eggs from a ruffle-necked slala-ma-goox or a tizzle-topped grouse, or is that Scrambled-eggs super?

Geisel devoted his life to children's books and literacy but never had children of his own.

The writer and cartoonist who brought the world the Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham and the Grinch is credited with inventing the words crunk and blog, though they weren't used in the context that they are today.

He's also been recognized as the inventor of the word "nerd" which he used in his 1950 children's book, *If I Ran the Zoo*, to describe a yellow, furry creature.

Geisel attended Dartmouth University and quickly rose to the rank of editor-in-chief of the Dartmouth paper, *Jack-O-Lantern*.

After being forced to give up extracurricular activities as punishment for throwing a

drinking party during prohibition, Geisel continued to write for the *Jack-O-Lantern* under the pen-name Seuss. He didn't sign anything using the "Dr." until after he graduated. He continued his education at Lincoln College in Oxford intending to get a PhD

in literature.

While at Oxford, Geisel met his first wife, Helen Palmer, and left Oxford without ever obtaining a degree.

The "Dr." in his pen name is an acknowledgement of his father's unfulfilled hopes that he would get a doctorate.

Geisel wrote and illustrated many political cartoons and editorial cartoons and created advertisements before the Second World War.

On a trip back from Europe, the rhythm of the boat's engines inspired a poem that would become his first book;

And to Think I Saw That on Mulberry Street.

During the war he produced over 400 political cartoons which were later published in *Dr. Seuss Goes to War*.

Geisel joined the army in 1942 and was commander of the animation department. During this time he wrote and created many propaganda short films, two of which won Academy Awards.

After the war, Geisel and his wife moved to California where he returned to writing children's books.

Geisel never wrote books with a moral in mind, instead focusing on a social or political messages.

As reported in *Life* magazine in 1959, "Kids can see a moral a mile off," he said.

When *Life* magazine published a report that found illiteracy was widespread among school children in 1954, Geisel was inspired to write books with a simplified vocabulary.

The *Cat in the Hat*, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* and *Fox in Sox* are some of the many beginner books written for novice readers.

He would reportedly labour for months over the beginner books because of the difficulty he had writing them.

Difficult or not, Geisel succeeded in creating more than 45 books before his death at the age of 87.

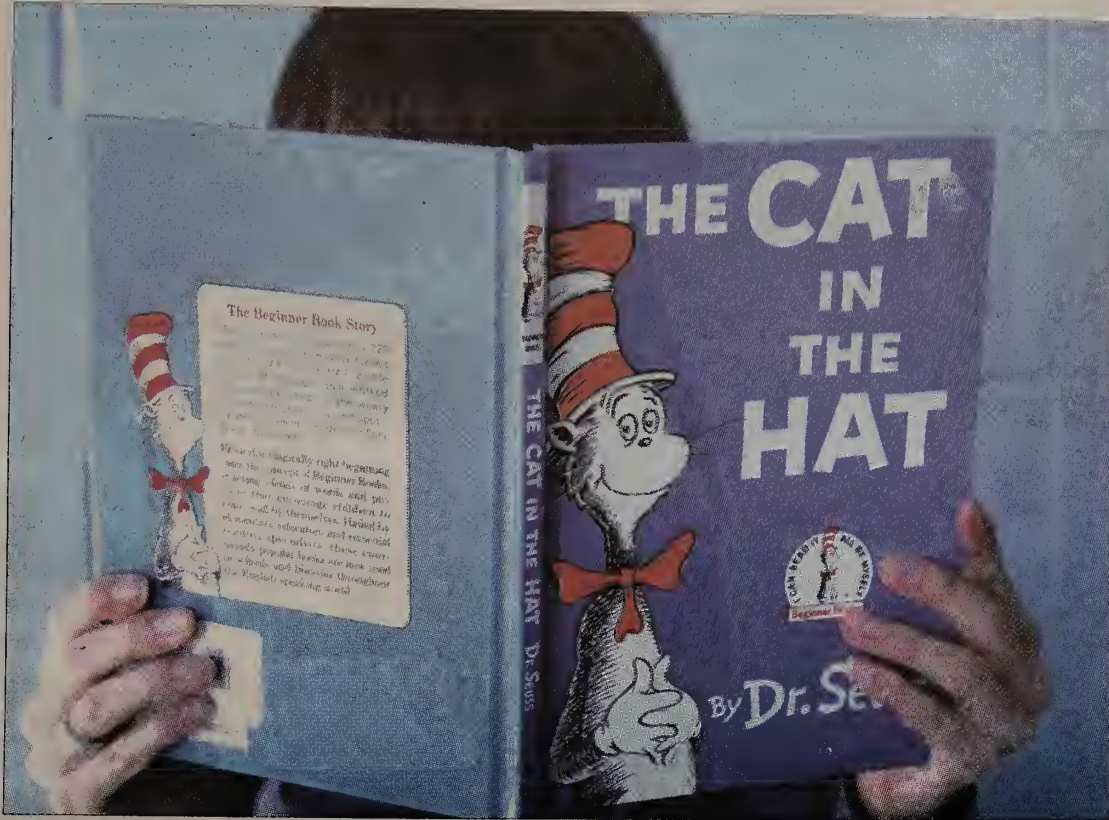


PHOTO BY LIZ KOENIG

The *Cat in the Hat* is one of Dr. Seuss's most popular children's books. Two movies and a cartoon television series have been based on the best-selling book.

Mayor asks that residents dare to be different

By HEATHER MUIR

Ever wanted to share your ideas on how to help the economy, but felt you wouldn't have a chance? Well the time has come to make those ideas known.

Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr made his annual State of the City address for 2009 at City Hall on Feb 20.

He said the economy is in trouble and the nation's at war, leaving a mess that needs to be tended to without delay. He said his new campaign, Dare to be Different, can help make a difference.

The mayor wants to get Kitchener residents involved in the process. As the leader of this community he could come up with ways himself, but he would prefer to get the ideas from the leaders of tomorrow.

"After all, it is this community's willingness to be different, to take the road less travelled and to foster creativity, that has lead to some of our greatest accomplishments," said Zehr.

The idea for Dare to be Different was used in Stratford in 1952, when the town struggled with the loss of its major economic engine, the railway yards. Tom Patterson dared to be different when he sought to create a theatre fes-

tival dedicated to the work of William Shakespeare.

"An example of local daring to be different is Research in Motion, it was a 'crazed idea about having wireless e-mails, and now it employs thousands of people here today," said Zehr.

In 1951, while other municipalities were building community arenas, Kitchener saw the potential in a facility that would attract visitors from across the region. That was when the memorial auditorium was born. Other such visions that became reality were the Conestoga Parkway and Centre in the Square.

Zehr said that the growing of Kitchener's new economy is not about people turning their backs on the manufacturing industry, it is about supporting it. With a lot of people losing their jobs in this area, we need to modernize and diversify our economic base which can help to create jobs.

As the campaign grows, ideas are being set into motion such as building on biotechnology and health sciences, and a new digital media convergence centre.

"Daring to be different is infectious, so instead of just coasting into the new economy, we are bursting through the door," said Zehr.

Country feels effects of job losses

By LOUISE KADDOUR

Last year Canada's manufacturing sector suffered its steepest job losses since the recession of the early 1990s, according to Statistics Canada.

The country's unemployment rate increased by 0.6 per cent in January to 7.2 per cent, with the economy down 213,000 jobs since October, 2008.

In manufacturing, 101,000 jobs disappeared in January

alone, the largest monthly decline on record for the sector, according to Statistics Canada. About 36,000 of those positions were in Ontario.

In a story in the *Toronto Star*, Jim Stanford, an economist with the Canadian Auto Workers union, said he believes some of the manufacturing job losses were related to idling as automakers deal with excess inventory, and thinks some of those positions will come back.

"But we don't know when the

plants are going to start running again because U.S. auto sales have been so negative," he said.

Overall, Canada lost 129,000 jobs in January. The province alone lost 71,000 jobs in the same month, the largest monthly drop in more than three decades, Statistics Canada said.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, however, the health-care and social assistance sector saw an increase of 31,000 jobs during January.

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RESPECT DAY ACTIVITIES FEATURING...

Guest Speaker Cory Johnson in the Sanctuary at 12pm

Student Committee "Walk A Mile" Booths in the SLC

Respect Campaign Introduction at 11:30 & 1:30 in the SLC

Respect Open Viewing Presentation at 3pm - Room 2E25

Monday March 2 11 AM-2pm

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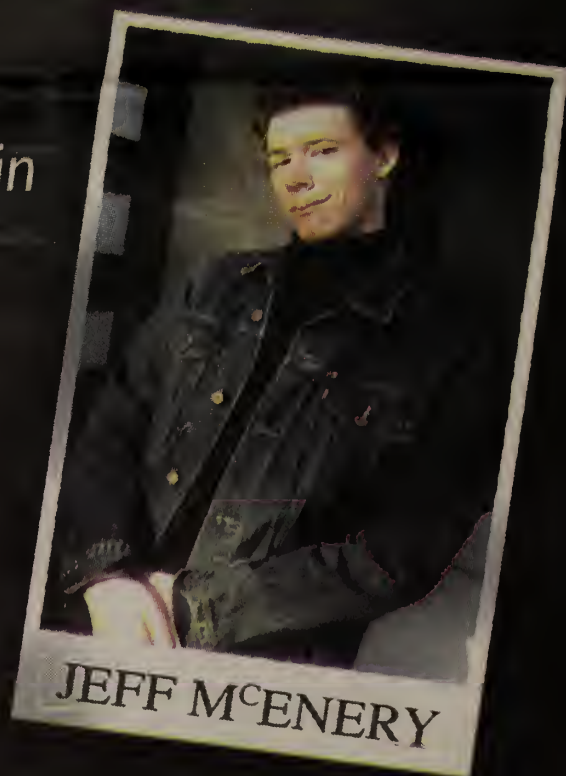


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Search before admittance and no re-entry policies in effect. No outside food or drink allowed.

Friday the 13ths are something to roar about

Bikers from all over Ontario and the U.S. meet up in Port Dover

By JAMIE REANSBURY

If Feb. 14 is the day that binds loved ones together, than Friday, Feb. 13 is the day all hell breaks loose, in Port Dover anyway.

For the first time this year, the small Lake Erie town revelled in its unique tradition of celebrating Friday the 13th. With thoughts of bad luck cast aside, the town focused on the incoming roar of motorcycles.

"It was a long ride, (even) if you're dressed for it," said K.C. Wilkinson, a Brantford biker who rode his Harley Davidson through the ice, salt, snow and sand of the winter roads.

Since 1981 it has been a custom for some bikers to ride down to Port Dover, park their motorcycle and assemble along the street, in a bar or in a coffee shop to talk to other bikers and admire their two-wheeled beauties.

"(We) hang out, see the bikes, meet people from Ontario and the U.S.," said Lisa Philpott, an event T-shirt vendor from Brantford and a Fanshawe social service student. Philpott began coming to Friday the 13th with her stepfather back in the 1980s.

Some people, however, are adamant that the tradition extends far beyond the 1980s.

"We met a guy that came down here in 1945 on shore leave and he said there were bikes here then," said Thomas Thompson, a biker from Windsor who used to ride with the Outlaws and now rides for a Christian group. Thompson also said that he had been coming to an unofficial Friday the 13th since 1967.

"

(We) hang out, see the bikes, meet people from Ontario and the U.S.

— Lisa Philpott

"

Since the early days the event was held so bikers could come together, however, it has grown into an enormous gathering that can span several days. Some of the regular Friday the 13th attendees swear that they have talked to people from all over the U.S., the Northwest Territories, Australia and England at the Port Dover event.

Last year Port Dover also set a world record for most motorcycles at a single event. There were an estimated 30,000

bikes at the June Friday the 13th.

"I came down last year when they broke the record. I got ticket number 9,000 and something, but I lost it," said Joe Varga, a biker from St. Williams.

There have also been many famous faces in attendance. Some include John Kaye, Steppenwolf, Dan Ackroyd and the Teutul boys from Orange County Chopper in New York.

"Last year Neil Young was here," said Debra Thompson, Thomas's wife. She remembered that she and her husband were talking to him for some time before asking his name, and when he told her, she commented on how she liked the famous Neil Young's music. "He didn't even say it was him."

It was not until later when the Thompsons were talking to another man that they learned that they had been talking to the famous Neil Young.

"This guy says 'yeah I knew it was him, I bought him a beer,'" reflected Debra.

Although there were hundreds of bikes in attendance on Feb. 13 in Port Dover, and easily a couple of thousand people, it was still a far cry from what it has been in the past. Reduced attendance in winter months is a regular occurrence since many bikers are from farther away and do not feel like going without their motorcycles. Others wouldn't let the winter conditions keep them away.

"We were the first people here at a quarter to seven in the morning," said Michael Moore, a Scotia Bank representative from Toronto.

Another man who was not discouraged was the bull horns guy. Every year a guy on a Honda motorcycle repeatedly rides around the town with bull horns either on his helmet or his bike. He also wears a vest and ass-less chaps to complete his unique appearance.

"He comes out every year in a red G-string," said Varga. "Everybody that comes down here knows him, he's just that guy." After a short pause though, Varga added, "I don't know his name or where he's from though."

"It wouldn't be Friday the 13th without him," said a woman who was watching him from the Tim Hortons parking lot.

This year there is going to be two more Friday the 13ths, in March and in November, and everybody with an ear for the low purr of a motorcycle is invited.

"It's (for) all kinds of walks of life," said Debra.

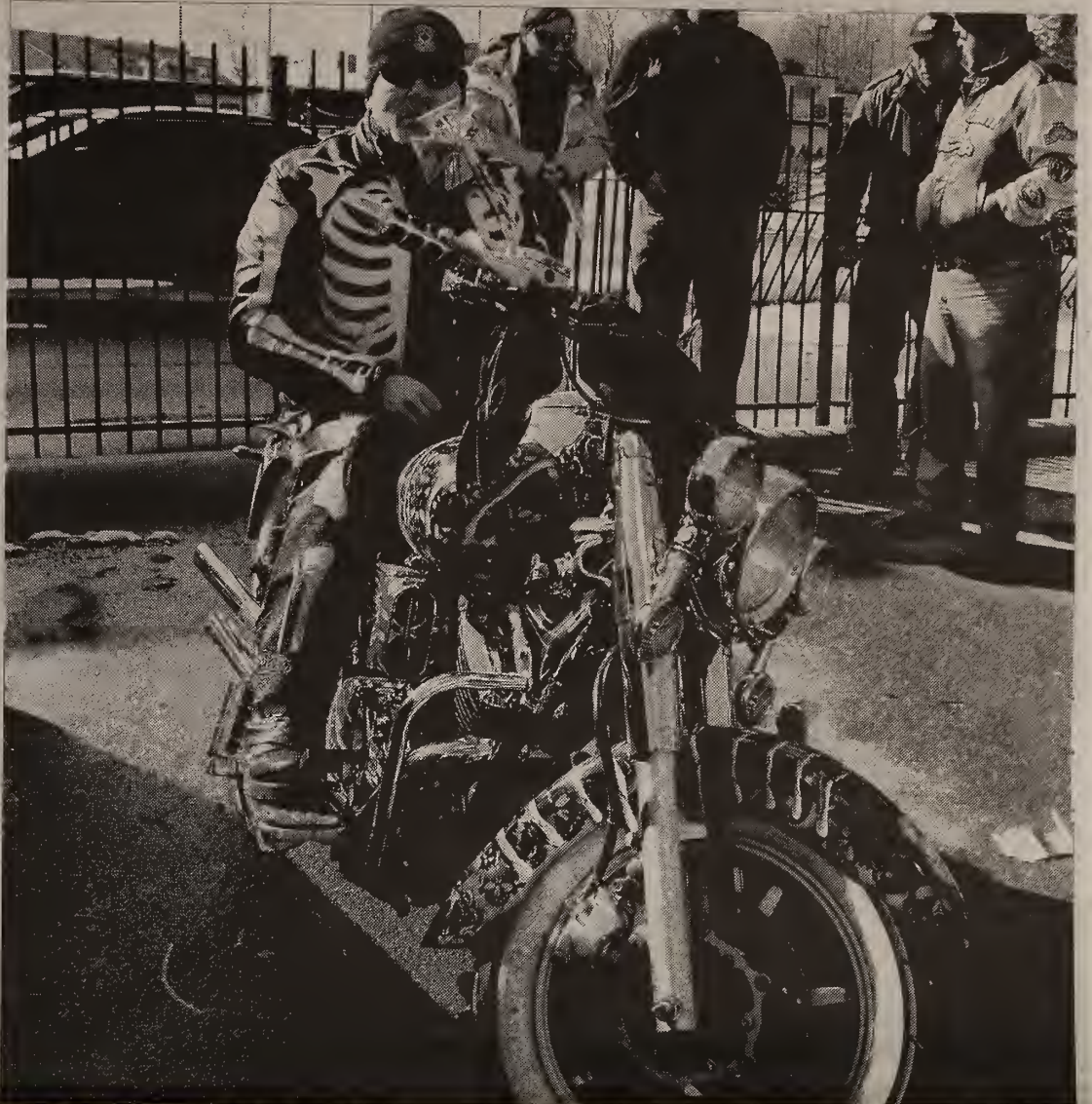


PHOTO BY JAMIE REANSBURY

Paul White, a biker from Cambridge, poses in his skeleton leathers on his skeleton-inspired 1100 Yamaha V-star.



PHOTOS BY JAMIE REANSBURY

Above left, some of the custom rides extend as tributes to biking legends such as Indian Larry. Right, bikers and spectators gather in and around the Norfolk Tavern to look at bikes and talk to strangers.

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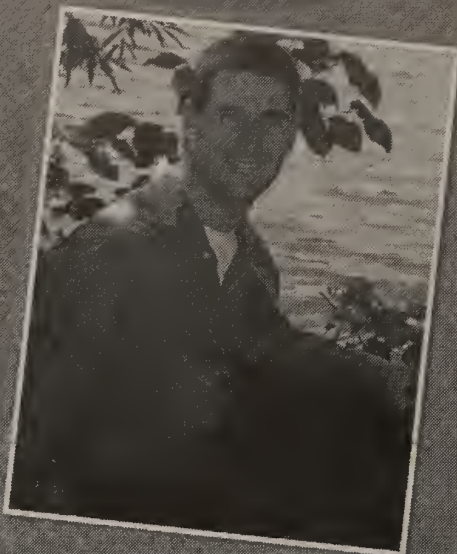
Turning Disabilities into Possibilities

Presentation by:
Cory Johnson

Cory Johnson is an exceptional motivational speaker who uses laughter, life experience, and education that benefits people of all ages. He has two disabilities: He was born with Cerebral Palsy and had a stroke at age 11.

Cory lives his life to the fullest and barrier free with the exception of the "barriers" that some people impose on him. With his witty sense of humor and positive attitude, he is able to find ways to remove and eliminate so-called "barriers". After the first 2 minutes of meeting and interacting with Cory, people realize that he really is not disabled, it's just a perception.

Cory optimizes the importance of finding value in all things. He uses a visual strategy to convert the things we all have value, and by finding this value, we can look past disabilities and see the possibilities.



CORY JOHNSON

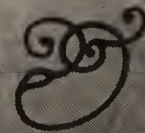
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Monday, March 2, 2009
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Book your appointment in the CSI Self
Serve room 2A108





HOROSCOPE

Week of March 2, 2009



Aries
March 21 - April 19

You're facing something big this week and you can't really avoid it this time! It's a good week to draw on resources from friends and family in order to get things back into balance.



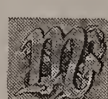
Libra
September 23 - October 22

You need to let go of your preconceptions about how the week is going to go. It's certain that you will face at least one cancellation or postponement and may need to cram more activities in somehow.



Taurus
April 20 - May 20

Your friends are waiting for something from you and even if you don't know what's up, you still need to perform. It's one of those weeks when you're at the centre of your social circle, Taurus.



Scorpio
October 23 - November 21

Indulge your romantic side this week, Scorpio. Sneak off with your partner or surprise a stranger with a great line. You never know where it will lead and your good energy will smooth everything out.



Gemini
May 21 - June 21

Focus on the future of your career this week. Think about new skills or other ways to improve your prospects. Time will fly faster than you imagine, Gemini.



Sagittarius
November 22 - December 21

Progress is tough this week, so don't get too frustrated if you end up not far from where you started. If you can just blow off smaller commitments entirely, you might get a lot more out of just relaxing, Sagittarius.



Cancer
June 22 - July 22

You're feeling a burst of great energy within yourself this week and you should be able to direct it toward something that feels right to you, Cancer.



Capricorn
December 22 - January 19

You can express yourself much more clearly and creatively through writing this week, so it's a good time for blogging, poetry, e-mail and anything else that involves words on paper or screen.



Leo
July 23 - August 22

Keep your wallet in hiding this week, Leo. You need to avoid spending as much as you can, especially on impulse purchases. Put them off for a while or say no, because you've got to hang on to your money.



Aquarius
January 20 - February 18

Try your best to keep your credit cards locked up this week as the temptation to overspend may be overwhelming! It's a good week for you to get back to nature, anything to avoid temptation.



Virgo
August 23 - September 22

Try your best to let your friends and peers do things their way this week, even if you can tell there's a better way to handle things. They need to work on their own and you need to take care of your own business, Virgo.



Pisces
February 19 - March 20

Focus on others this week as you've got plenty of good energy that can help them out tremendously. It's one of those weeks when you really need to make sure you're spreading the love around.



Louise Kaddour is a second-year journalism student holding fate in the palm of her hand.

Taken is a cut above

BY LOUISE KADDOUR

Movie Review



Taken is an action film featuring Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson), an ex-government operative who quits his job and moves to Los Angeles in order to reconnect with his teenage daughter, Kim (Maggie Grace).

After reluctantly allowing his daughter and her friend Amanda to travel to Paris on a summer trip he is told will be chaperoned, he receives a frantic phone call from Kim telling him they have been abducted and taken from their apartment in broad daylight.

As a man used to tracking down criminals, Mills quickly instructs Kim to keep the phone on the floor so he can get as many clues as possible about the abductors.

An ex co-worker of Mill's is able to identify the men's language and point Mills in the right direction. With only 96 hours to track down his daughter before her path is untraceable, this film will get

your heart pumping.

This is a realistically brutal film about a father who desperately searches for his daughter before she is sold into a life of prostitution in France.

He faces Albanian mobsters, corrupt French officials and Arab traffickers on his journey to save Kim before she is sold to the highest bidder.

Action-packed and adrenaline pumping, this film is full of clever tactics and heavily weaved with writhing emotion and desperation, something everyone can relate to, no matter their age or gender.

With not a single seat left in the theatre on its opening night, this tornado of a film

will suck you into its intense plot and tighten its grip until the very last minute. I found myself committed to Mills' plan, silently rooting him on as though it was my own sibling he was searching for.

Watching this film brought out anger at the thought that people could take a young and innocent woman, drug her beyond recognition and sell her as though she is property.

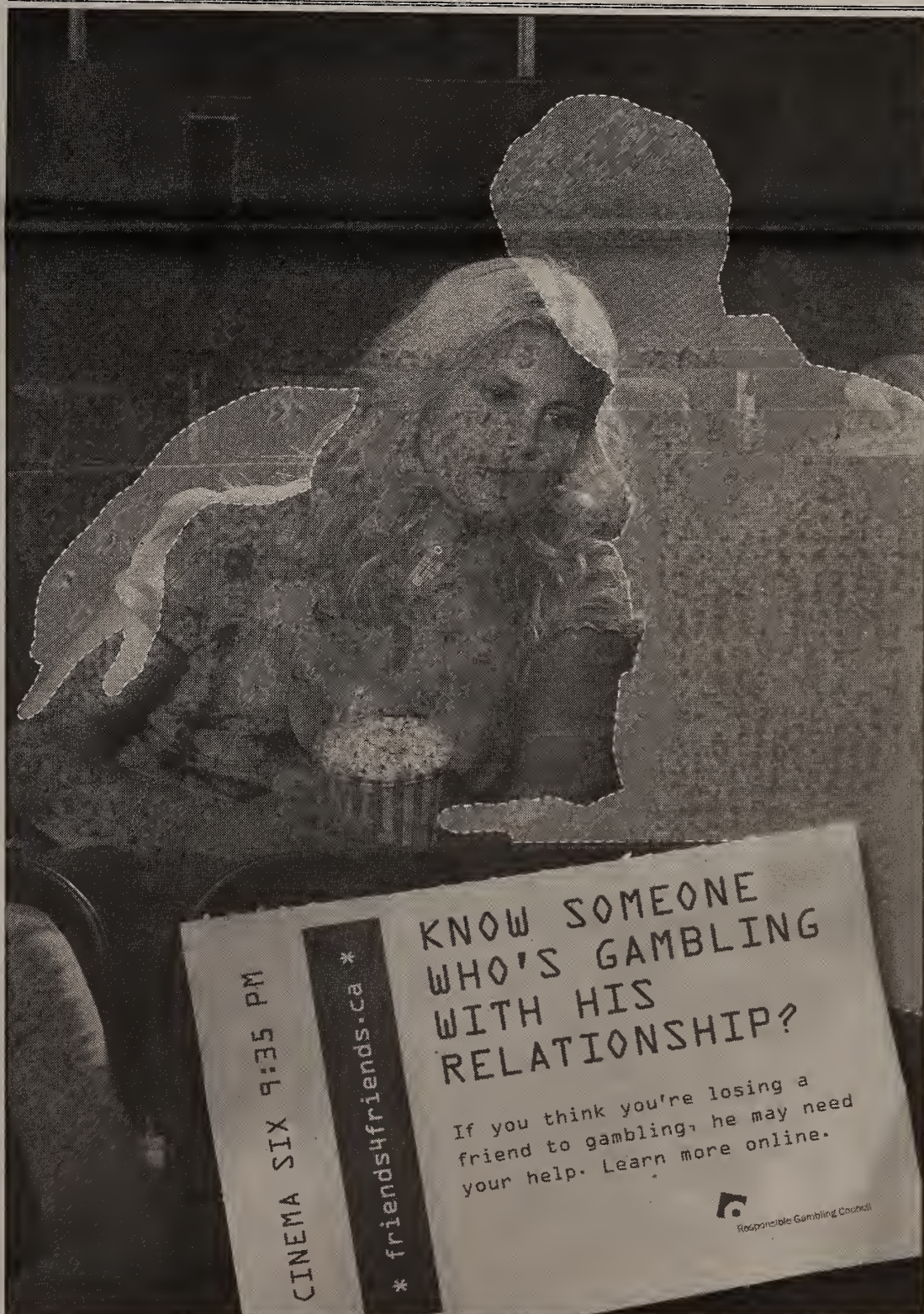
“

This tornado of a film will suck you into its intense plot and tighten its grip until the very last minute.

”

By far, this is the most thought-provoking and well-directed film I have seen in years.

I give Taken 5 out of 5 stars.



CINEMA SIX 9:35 PM

* friends4friends.ca *

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DATES:

★ February 23rd
 Director Packages Available

★ February 27th, March 3rd, March 5th
 All Candidates Mandatory Meetings
(Candidates only required to attend 1 of the 3 Mandatory Meetings)

★ March 6th
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**CONESTOGA
 STUDENTS INC**

2009

Second Avatar

Online games reflect offline living

By DAVID SMITH

The battle had already begun, evident by the contrived and furious behaviour of the undead upon his emaciated steed, rearing the ethereal creature to face the enemy, a sound unlike any other projected from its skeletal jaw.

Harp strings yearn in the Arctic setting, as another arrow paints an arc of lavender before sinking deep into its projected target. The cadaver slams his rotting boots into his mount and penetrates the barrier between air and earth.

The hunter steps forward beyond the entrenched tree line, revealing the impartial cascade of fortitude within his sights. Knocking another arrow into the bow, the adversary draws closer. The arrow is released from the weapon and bites into the maggot-covered flesh of the oncoming evil.

The distant air rushes in, knocking the adventurer to his knees. The unexpected change in current leads to a change in artillery, as quiver and bow subside to the grey steel of hilt and blade.

Had 26-year-old Martin Spence chosen to continue his fight with the wraithlike avatar, he would have completed a task set out by the chancellor of the reigning capital, resulting in not only a hefty reward of gold pieces and level gain, but the adoration of his digital peers as well.

However, the Ryerson student, unlike several others who seek refuge in the comfort of massively multiplayer online gaming, knows when enough is enough, and other priorities including a job, a girlfriend and friends are factored in to his daily activities.

"A lot of people who play online games — shooters, RPGs, simulators, whatever — are usually stereotyped. We see it and we hear it from all types of mediums," said Spence. "We're given the image of anti-social losers and basement dwelling nerds, which is obviously overrated. Personally, it doesn't bother me, really."

Spence, an avid gamer has run the gamut of several online games — available, including NC Soft's City of Heroes, Squaresoft's Final Fantasy XI, Sony Online Entertainment's Everquest, and current favourite, Blizzard Entertainment's World of Warcraft.

World of Warcraft, often referred to as WoW, falls into the massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) genre. Released

in 2004, World of Warcraft currently houses more than 11.5 million monthly subscribers, according to Blizzard Entertainment's website. Not unlike other games within the genre, players take control of a personally created avatar within another world, traversing the planet, fighting monsters, completing quests for townsfolk and earning money for their work.

The game, alongside those that inhabit its virtual world, have become a target of criticism and a source of controversy due to claims of addiction and the loss of reality that some users suffer.

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— Martin Spence

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“Playing online — for me, anyways — is something I do to relax when my day is through. It's not something that I patronize over when I'm at work or at school,” said Spence.

“I don't neglect those close to me in favour of playing online — I spend time with my family, with my girlfriend, with my buddies, if I have enough time afterwards, then I'll play for a few hours.”

Using the blade as a temporary crutch, the warrior dug the two-handed great sword into the frozen earth at his knees. Climbing to his feet, the adversary ravaged towards the lone fighter, fortitude of blue-capped ice forming in the wake of its onslaught.

Releasing the eight-pound piece of steel from its stationary crypt, the bearded figure stood solemnly in the center path of his oncoming demise, unmoved by the rising locomotive bearing down on his soul.

The warrior closed his eyes and felt the oppressing wind flash against his unguarded face. A prayer began to pass over his crimson lips. “Silvun ash lleditle forgl nesiitu, nul.”

The spirit god of Vurul blessed the fighter that frigid day. The prayer did more than what was prophesied. The grey earth began

to cease, opening between good and evil.

Spence's mother, Annette, is certain that her son is responsible with his gaming habits.

“Martin has been playing videogames for so long now, he's the same kid he was 10 years ago,” said Annette.

Working full-time at a grocery store in Guelph, Annette feels comfortable enough that her constant supervision and overlook of Martin's activities is no longer needed.

“He's an adult, he knows when he's had enough,” Annette said, of her son. “I used to monitor some of his playtime, making sure his homework was getting done, that his chores were looked after. He's independent enough that he doesn't need his mom watching over his shoulder all the time.”

According to the US journal Cyber Psychology and Behavior, a study was completed in 2007 from Nottingham Trent University which shed some light on online gamers and their social dynamics.

Centring on over 1,000 online gamers from across the globe, researchers found that “gamers make good friends with the people they meet in their virtual worlds, with almost half meeting in real-life situations and one in 10 going on to develop physical relationships.”

“I have a lot of friends and colleagues that play WoW. We've all got a life outside of its digital walls. Sure, some may choose to play it more than others, that could be for a ton of reasons — none of which

should really be openly criticized,” said Martin Spence.

“It's unfortunate that there are some people out there that get addicted to this kind of stuff and it pulls them down — it ruins their life. People lose their jobs, their friends and in some serious cases, they put their own life in danger,” said Spence. “I'm thankful for my upbringing and the people that support me. It's because of them it won't get to a point where I get into that much trouble with online gaming.”

Putting real life ahead of its digital counterpart, Spence is proof that not all online gamers are the pimple-faced hermits that others are led to believe. They are the people we see every day in our lives: the businessmen, the construction workers, those in health care and the students across the world.

As the behemoth collapsed into the ashen core, tumbling and twisting in a dance of rage, the warrior watched atop the crevice spine, removing the sweat from his pale face. Inhaling the pristine mixture of cop-

per fire and ivory winter, the land began to recede, swallowing the apparition of death in its transformation.

As he emptied his lungs of the lavish materials, the spirit that once opened the solid ground drove into the final cracks, emitting a light so loud, the patrons in the heavens looked away. It ripped into the warriors mind, digging at the internal strands of life and death.

Then all was quiet as was before.

The spirit had taken from the warrior what he had relied on so heavily, but it was necessary for the summon which had been called out and the eventual resting of steed and tainted ghoul. The warrior was far from his home and the bodied flare that painted the sky was beginning to dip into the western lands. A dark journey home for our hero, dark for the sacrifices he had made. How can a man read the burning stars peppered across the night sky if his sight has been taken from him now until forever?

INTERNET GRAPHIC

Blizzard Entertainment's World of Warcraft ranks among the highest MMOs to date. Other titles such as Turbine's Lord of Ring Online and Mythic Entertainment's Warhammer Online receive millions of dollars from monthly subscribers as well.



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